

# ABOUT GROWTH

A Quarterly Publication About Growth Management

Fall 2001



*Providing financial and technical resources to build livable and sustainable communities*

## Contents

Parks, open space, and trails	2
Farewell and congratulations	2
Growing community faces challenges in providing parks for new neighborhoods	3
2002 review update	3
Recreation and historic preservation are natural partners	4
Olmsted plan important guide for Spokane's park system	5
Historic value of parks assessed	5
IAC grants available for parks, trails, wildlife areas	6
Creating communities that attract people	6
Community gathering places: Linking art and community	7
Best available science for wetlands	7
Open space planning under the GMA	8
Cascade Land Conservancy helps communities carry out growth management plans	8

## Metro Parks Tacoma takes regional approach to planning

By Susan Hulbert, APR  
Communications Manager, Metro Parks Tacoma

In Tacoma, planning for future parks and recreation services is taking a new direction as Metro Parks Tacoma begins preparations for a long-range planning process.

The park district is taking a regional approach to planning and will evaluate the overall planning framework, including comprehensive and strategic plans of Tacoma, Pierce County, and surrounding jurisdictions, and the plans of nonprofit and for-profit recreational facility or service providers.

As an independent, junior-taxing authority providing park and recreation services for Tacoma, Browns Point, and Dash Point residents, Metro Parks will need to work in partnership with the City of Tacoma to set level of service standards that are consistent with the vision that is described in the city's comprehensive plan.

"We intend to look at the entire system of parks and recreation delivery in Pierce County," Lois Stark, Metro Parks' chief planner, said. "Our goal is to ensure our residents and customers have access to the services they desire at a quality level. If the Boys and Girls Club, the school district, or community college is providing certain classes or facilities, we don't want to duplicate them," she added. This allows Metro Parks to provide recreational facilities

and programs that complement rather than compete with the existing mix.

In addition, the park district will be engaging the public to help determine what the level of service standards should be for parks and open spaces. Traditionally park providers have used an acreage-based standard. Given the competition for public dollars and a revenue base that struggles to keep up with inflation, in many ways it is more important to plan to improve the usability and functionality of our existing park spaces than to acquire

significantly more park acreage, Stark said. She wants to create community stewardship and appreciation for parks by involving the public in the planning and design process early on, which will lead to partnering with the public to care for and fund public parks in the future.

There is also the need to address competitors vying for the public's leisure and recreational time and dollars. Competition comes from such



**One of three Victorian-style conservatories on the West Coast, the W.W. Seymour Conservatory is open year-round with season floral displays.**

PHOTO / COURTESY OF METRO PARKS TACOMA

diverse arenas as shopping malls, movie theatres, gambling, internet/computer use, and sporting events. Stark notes the need for park spaces where events can be programmed to raise excitement, reinforce community image, and bring together a wide variety of citizens. At the same time, it's important to make parks a positive addition to a community and neighborhood and not the repository of social problems, such as crime and drug use. The park district also recognizes the need to plan and design for affordable upkeep and to create retail opportunities for revenue flow.

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 3

# ABOUT GROWTH

Published quarterly by the Washington State Office of Community Development, Growth Management Services, 906 Columbia St. SW, Olympia, WA 98504-8350. The office administers the state's Growth Management Act. Its role is to assist and enable local governments to design their own programs to fit local needs and opportunities, consistent with the GMA.

**Busse Nutley, Director**  
**Steve Wells, Assistant Director,**  
**Local Government Division**  
**Shane Hope, Managing Director,**  
**Growth Management Services**  
**Holly Gadshaw, Senior Planner**  
**Rita R. Robison, Editor**

*About Growth* features topics that are of high interest and strives to reflect a wide range of views from various perspectives. The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily OCD's opinions or positions.

**For comprehensive information about Growth Management:**  
<http://www.oed.wa.gov/growth>

OCD is committed to equal employment opportunities and nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, age, religion, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or disabled or Vietnam-era veteran status.

Persons or organizations wishing to receive *About Growth* may do so by notifying this office by phone or at the address shown above. Address corrections are also encouraged and welcomed. Return mailing label to the editor with changes noted.

This publication is available in alternate format upon request. Events sponsored by OCD shall be accessible to persons with disabilities. Accommodations may be arranged with a minimum of 10 working days notice to the editor or by calling 360-725-3000.



Printed on Recycled / Recyclable Paper

## Parks, open space, and trails



**By Shane Hope, AICP**  
 Managing Director, Growth Management Services, OCD

**A**s growth occurs, land is constantly being consumed for pavement and buildings.

Yet most of us don't want to spend our days surrounded by unrelenting urban or suburban development. What can we do?

One approach is to ensure that our communities have good parks, trails, and town squares. These kinds of places are part of our national heritage.

There is something special about outdoor spaces where we can meet other people, let our kids play, do activities, or just enjoy the scenery.

Washington's Growth Management Act (GMA) has a goal to: "Encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks."

Parks, trails, and town squares can be the pride of our neighborhoods and communities. But such places don't happen by accident. Communities have to plan for them and then care for them. In the last 50 years, with an explosion of suburban growth, parks have often been left out. Even in some established towns and cities, new parks have not been added to keep up with the needs of more people.

As citizens of our communities, we can work to change these patterns. In some cases, that means maintaining or improving the places we have. In other cases, it means buying land and creating new public outdoor spaces. Along the way, we get to think about what kinds of places we need and want. Ballfields? Walkways? Waterfront? Benches for sitting? A gathering place for local events? Play equipment? Trees?

Other questions come up, too. Should we have a variety of small parks or just one large park? How about a network of trails for jogging, bike riding, roller blading, and walking?

While parks in urban areas are important, many Washingtonians also want open space and recreational places in more remote areas. We like to be able to get away to the mountains, forest, beach, or other natural spots. We like to know that native birds and animals have natural habitat.

Our state is fortunate to have many existing recreational properties, wildlife refuges, and open spaces. But with an estimated two million more people here by 2020, will it be enough?

Should we do more to save our scenic vistas or significant open places? Some non-profit organizations and other agencies are acquiring land now to set aside for parks, trails, and open space. Each of us can decide whether or how to participate in these efforts.

Young or old, people use outdoor space to play, exercise, meet friends, and be part of the larger natural environment. Private backyards can be wonderful but aren't

enough to meet the different needs. As development occurs, most of us want to keep places for parks, open space, wildlife habitat, and trails. The GMA encourages this, too. Ultimately, the decisions to plan and make it happen are up to all of us – elected officials, planners, and ordinary citizens.



**Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest**

PHOTO / RITA R. ROBISON

## Farewell and congratulations

Shane Hope is leaving her job as managing director for Growth Management Services at OCD and has accepted a new position directing the planning and building divisions for the City of Mountlake Terrace.

"I have enjoyed my work with communities across the state," Hope said, "and am also pleased that I will stay in the region, working on local issues, including growth management."

# Growing community faces challenges in providing parks for new neighborhoods

By Wyn Birkenthal

Director, Richland Parks and Recreation Department

In 1942 the United States government purchased Richland, population 247, to create the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

The town site was master planned and built as a residential community to house 11,000 Hanford workers and family members. The master plan included set-asides for schools, parks, and neighborhood businesses. Community parks were established within one mile of every residential area and neighborhood parks were made available within a walkable, half-mile radius from nearly every home in the city.

Today Richland has a population of 40,000 and the city's boundaries extend well beyond the limits of the World War II master plan. To accommodate new growth and continue building on its established park system, Richland has invested heavily in new facilities in recent years.

In 1999 voters approved a bond issue for construction of a \$5.3 million community center located on the edge of 48-acre Howard Amon Park. The 21,000 square-foot facility opened to the public on October 19, 2001. The building is designed with a high-ceiling glass eastern wall providing a panoramic view of both the Columbia River and the park landscape.

Richland has developed an extensive Class I trail system to connect outlying neighborhoods with the downtown core. Seven miles of the trail network parallel the Columbia River linking the city's three largest waterfront parks. In November construction will begin to complete the last remaining gap in the Columbia Riverfront trail. The 4,000-foot missing link is located south of the Central Business District and north of Columbia Point, a newly developed mixed-use river front neighborhood. The \$350,000 trail project is partially funded through an Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) trail development grant.

In the rapidly growing southern portion of the city, 80-acre Badger Mountain Community Park is nearing completion. The park's construction has been funded through a series of IAC grants and citizen "sweat equity," as community groups and local contractors have volunteered to grade the property, install an

irrigation system, and plant the majority of the park's trees. Badger Mountain Park is connected to South Richland neighborhoods by a four-mile long paved trail developed in 2000 with the assistance of a transportation enhancement grant.

One of Richland most difficult growth management challenges is to maintain the level of park service established by the master planned town site throughout the city's newly flourishing suburban neighborhoods. The city's five-year Park and Open Space Plan, adopted in 2000, calls for the acquisition of five additional neighborhood park sites and two community park parcels to attain this goal. The estimated acquisition cost is \$5.5 to \$6.5 million. At present the Parks and Recreation Department is redrafting the city's ordinance requiring park fees on new residential development. If approved by the Richland City Council, the revised ordinance will enhance the income stream produced by this funding source so it can be applied to the purchase of additional parkland.

## Metro Parks Tacoma takes regional approach to planning

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"As our urban landscapes become increasingly homogenized, it is important that we base our park plans not only on the natural features of the sites, but also on the unique characteristics of the community that we will be serving," she said. Dickman Mill Park on Tacoma's Ruston Way waterfront opened in September and emphasizes the area's lumber mill heritage through interpretive graphics and use of unique historic features. The base of the former sawdust burner, for example, houses inter-tidal plants. In phase two the mill's boiler doors and 1923 head saw will return to the site.

Metro Parks Tacoma was formed by state legislative action in 1907 and is governed by an elected board of five commissioners. The park district manages over 100 parks and open spaces, eight community centers, three athletic complexes, Boathouse Marina, Fort Nisqually Historic Site, W.W. Seymour Conservatory, Meadow Park Golf Course, Tacoma Nature Center, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, and Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium.

## 2002 review update

Counties and cities fully planning under the GMA are required to review and, if necessary, revise comprehensive plans and development regulations – including critical areas and natural resource lands ordinances – for consistency with the GMA by September 1, 2002. Local governments not fully planning are required to only update critical areas ordinances and resource lands designations.

Materials are available to help guide counties and cities with this requirement.

### Information for counties and cities updating critical areas ordinances and resource lands designations only:

- Technical Bulletin 1.1 (overview on how to meet update requirements)
- "2002 Update: Issues to Consider When Reviewing and Evaluating Critical Areas Regulations and Natural Resource Lands Designations"

### Information for counties and cities fully planning under the GMA:

- Technical Bulletin 1.2 (guidance for determining the appropriate level of review and revision)
- "2002 Update: Issues to Consider When Reviewing Comprehensive Plans and Development Regulations"
- Comprehensive Plan Checklist (outline of GMA requirements)
- Development Regulations Checklist (outline of GMA requirements)
- "Growth Management Act Amendments 1995-2001"
- "Statutory Deadlines for GMA-related Actions"

Future activities are other bulletins, including one on population reallocation, and 2002 update workshops. The workshops will provide guidance on the update requirement and will share perspectives on the approaches and strategies that will assist local jurisdictions. Among the workshop topics are: including "best available science" in critical areas ordinances; siting essential public facilities, including community facilities for sex offenders; using Office of Financial Management population forecasts; establishing transportation concurrency; sharpening economic development tools; and directing urban growth.

### Workshop dates and locations:

#### Spokane

Wednesday, November 7

#### Ellensburg

Thursday, November 8

#### Everett

Thursday, November 15

#### Olympia/Lacey

Friday, November 16

To obtain materials or register for workshops, call OCD at 360-725-3000 or go to OCD's web site at [www.ocd.wa.gov/growth](http://www.ocd.wa.gov/growth).

# Recreation and historic preservation are natural partners

By Greg Griffith, AICP

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer,  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, OCD

**R**ecreation planners and historic preservationists are forging partnerships that not only benefit parks and historic properties but score big wins for communities' quality of life. Since the 1800s, the preservation and interpretation of historic sites and buildings has been a popular use of American's expanding leisure time.

Preservation of history became a public priority with the creation of the National Park Service (NPS) in the early 1900s. In addition to scenic and natural areas, the NPS was charged with protection of historic sites such as battlefields, forts, and buildings. Preservation as a recreational pursuit was advanced during the Great Depression of the 1930s by public relief efforts that resulted in purchase and preservation of historic properties across the nation.

For example, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) undertook the relocation and reconstruction of Fort Nisqually to its present home at Point Defiance Park in Tacoma. This trend continued after World War II with state and local park systems assuming ownership and management of important historic properties, such as Fort Simcoe State Park near Yakima and Hovander Homestead, a unit of the Whatcom County park system.

In recent decades, two trends have emerged in recreation planning with direct bearing on historic preservation: (1) parks and other recreational facilities have become historic properties in their own right and are seen by a growing constituency as a legacy to appreciate and preserve; and (2) a diverse range of



PHOTOS / TACOMA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Hovander Homestead in Whatcom County

historic and cultural properties are increasingly being adapted for recreational activities. These trends can be attributed to a growing professional interest in recreational planning and historic preservation plus the public's recognition and value of recreation and preservation as dual forces that lead to enhanced quality of life.

To expand on these trends, planning schools have long taught the contributions of landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted in shaping people's concepts of recreation and urban design. In recent decades, the popular restoration of Olmsted's Central Park in New York City has helped spark the recognition and appreciation of older parks as being important not only for their recreational value but also increasingly as important historic sites.

Washington state, with an extensive recreation legacy, is home to many scenic parks that are considered historically important as well. Examples range from the glorious, rustic architecture found at Deception Pass State Park and Clark County's Lewisville Park to the wonderful sculptural forms at Causland Park in Anacortes and Ellensburg's revered and historic Rodeo Grandstand.

Even more remarkable is the emerging trend to adaptively reuse historic properties for recreational purposes. The conversion of old railroad grades, bridges, and waterfronts to hiking/biking trails is the most obvious example of this trend. Efforts by Volunteers for Outdoor Washington (VOW) to carve a trail out of the historic Great Northern Railroad route over Stevens Pass has received nationwide recognition for wedding outdoor recreation with preservation and interpretation. Now known as the Iron Goat Trail, the partnership built by VOW to preserve the historic railroad route demonstrates how recreation and historic preservation projects are often one and the same.

## Fort Nisqually in Tacoma's Point Defiance Park



# Olmsted plan important guide for Spokane's park system

By Mike Stone, CPRP

Interim Director, Spokane Parks and Recreation Department

In 1891 ten acres of land was donated for Spokane's first public park. That same year public parks came under the supervision of Spokane's mayor and city council. By 1907 a Board of Park Commissioners was established and the Olmsted Brother's landscape architectural firm provided the city with its first park master plan.

As Spokane has grown, it continues to use the Olmsted plan to guide open space acquisition and parkland development. Much of what the Olmsted Brothers wrote in their 1907 letter to park commissioners is even more pertinent today and is reflected in the city's 1998 *Parks and Recreation Open Spaces Plan*.

An excellent example of this early Olmsted plan is Riverfront Park, a 100-acre green space along the Spokane River in the middle of a bustling downtown. The Olmsted's master plan called for a "crown jewel" park – a green space – along the river, a great park close to an expanding city, a recreational space for all to enjoy. They urged land be set aside immediately before the property was no longer available. But not until 1974 did this recommendation become a reality when the former Expo '74 World's Fair site was purchased from the state and redeveloped as a park. Today Riverfront Park hosts thousands of visitors each year. Visitors walk through the park, ride the historic Loeff Carrousel, view Spokane River Falls from a gondola, and enjoy quiet moments watching the river flow by.

In 1999 Spokane citizens overwhelmingly passed a Park Improvement Bond allowing the Spokane Parks and Recreation Department to purchase 5.6 acres adjoining Riverfront Park's north boundary. Once again, another piece of the Olmsted plan falls into place – expansion of a downtown "crown jewel" park – all working in tandem with the city's expansion and need for recreational space.

Today Spokane's park system has grown to over 4,000 acres of protected green space, including more than 80 parks and pathways filled with natural beauty and diversity.

Spokane's parks provide the city's day-to-day recreational needs, protect environmentally sensitive areas, add aesthetic value, conserve natural resources, and assure public access and enjoyment of Spokane's park system – a lasting legacy of Olmsted master plan.

## Historic Loeff Carrousel in downtown Spokane's Riverfront Park



PHOTO / RITA R. ROBISON

# Historic value of parks assessed

By Greg Griffith, AICP

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer,  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, OCD

Communities large and small are discovering that older parks, zoos, and recreational facilities are not only historic resources but also important indicators of quality of life and economic well being. Efforts to restore New York's Central Park and other park systems designed by noted landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted has received wide public support. This national groundswell has not been lost on park planners in cities such as Seattle and Spokane, both blessed with a beautiful park system and bearing the imprint of Olmsted's design principles.

In recent years, the Spokane Parks and Recreation Department has partnered with the Spokane Historic Preservation Office and the state Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to begin assessing the city's Olmsted designed parks not only in terms of baseball diamonds and soccer fields, but also as historic properties that merit special management consideration.

Local preservation consultant Sally Reynolds researched the Olmsted archives to compare original designs, concepts, and notes with the parks that were actually constructed. Her research confirmed that Olmsted's Spokane park system plan was generally adhered to and (with a few exceptions) remains intact. Reynolds' work also suggested ideas for preserving, and in some cases restoring, elements that distinguish Olmsted park planning concepts. Ideas include maintenance and repair techniques for buildings and structures, vegetation management, and rearranging recreation uses.

In addition to providing directions for preservation planning, this project has served to underscore the brilliance of Olmsted's design in taking advantage of Spokane's natural beauty while providing open space for people to play, exercise, and relax. It has also demonstrated that Spokane residents love their parks; they see the Olmsted parks not only as places of beauty but as an historic legacy to be cherished and preserved for the pleasure and enjoyment of future generations.

## ***IAC grants available for parks, trails, wildlife areas***

For 37 years, the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) has improved the state's quality of life through its investment of public funds in parks, trails, beaches, boating facilities, wildlife habitat, and natural areas. Established by citizen initiative 215 in 1964, the IAC has helped finance almost 3,500 recreation and conservation projects throughout the state.

The IAC governing board is an eight-member committee composed of five citizens appointed by the Governor and three state agency directors.

Among the IAC grant programs are:

### **Boating Facilities Program**

- Funding supports acquisition, development, renovation, and planning of areas for motorized recreational boating facilities and related support elements on fresh or saltwater.
- Eligible projects include launch ramps, transient moorage, breakwaters and log booms, sewage pump-outs, parking and staging areas, and related upland support elements, such as restrooms and showers.

### **National Recreational Trails Program**

- Funding supports maintenance and renovation of trails that provide a "backcountry experience." Trails for motorized and/or non-motorized trail users are eligible.
- Eligible projects include maintenance of recreational land and water trails, trailheads, trailside facilities, including shelters, signs, and development of trailhead and trailside facilities. Recreational trail programs that promote safety and environmental protection also are eligible.

### **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program**

- Funding supports acquisition and development of outdoor recreation and conservation lands.
- Eligible projects include important local and state parks, water access sites, trails, critical habitat, natural areas, and urban wildlife habitat.

To receive information on how to apply for a grant, call the IAC at 360-902-3000.

# **Creating communities that attract people**

**By Bryan Wahl**  
Director of Government Affairs,  
Washington Association of Realtors®

**S**urveys and market trends indicate a preference for livable communities that offer a wide variety of choices in housing, job opportunities, transportation, recreation, shops, services, gathering places, and community centers.

Experts say good things happen when parks, open space, and recreational opportunities are created: tourists and residents are drawn to the community center, housing and businesses spring up alongside open space, and young people gain structured activities in which to take part.

Each community should plan for and provide these public facilities and other amenities such as parks, trees, sidewalks, and shared open spaces that the community desires.

When these amenities are provided in community plans, citizens are more likely to support increased development opportunities in their neighborhood, and businesses are more likely to be attracted to the locations where people are likely to hang out.

Real estate values increase from wise planning for open space. Open space in the vicinity increases the value of homes, and statistics show that buyers are willing to pay as much as \$10,000 more for homes next to parks.

Recent surveys conducted for Realtors®, both the state and national organizations, show that citizens want play space for children and access to traditional multiuse space. A significant majority believe it is "very important" to create certain types of open spaces, including playgrounds for children (75 percent), playing fields for soccer and baseball (61 percent), and easily accessible neighborhood parks (60 percent).

The public's interest in creating user friendly open spaces appears to be driven by a desire to enhance existing and developing residential and commercial space. Hard spaces – such as plazas, malls, and courtyards – provide settings for public activities. Soft spaces – such as parks, gardens, lawns, and natural preserves – provide essential relief from harsh urban conditions and serve as space for recreational activities. These amenities

increasingly influence which cities will be perceived as desirable places to live and work.

In terms of preserving existing open spaces in their current state, three out of four respondents support "encouraging private nonprofit groups, such as land trusts or environmental groups, to purchase or preserve the land" (75 percent) and local governments "purchasing land... to preserve it as open space" (74 percent). Four out of five respondents (79 percent) support "increasing local government recreation budgets so that they can purchase land for playing fields." And, 50 percent are willing to pay \$50 more in property taxes, if they know it will go to acquiring land for parks and open space in their community.

Some important techniques available to plan for open space include: (1) allowing cluster developments; (2) providing conservation easements; (3) transferring of development rights; and (4) purchasing of development rights.

For communities to be truly competitive, they must provide quality of life for the community's residents. To accommodate consumer preferences, land use plans must provide a variety of opportunities for jobs, housing, shopping, recreation, and social interaction.

A community designed to offer these choices will help satisfy the quality of life desires of current and future residents. Neighborhoods are more willing to accept the pressures of growth in their community when parks, open space, and recreational opportunities are provided. And, increasingly, business location decisions are being driven by how well communities are providing these amenities.

# Community gathering places: Linking art and community

By Milenko Matanovic  
Director, Pomegranate Center

**P**omegranate Center is a non-profit organization founded in 1987. Its mission is to help communities utilize their unique gifts to become more vibrant and humane.

We accomplish this by integrating social, artistic, and environmental perspectives into the creation of meaningful gathering places. We serve as planners and facilitators of public processes, as artists/designers, and as construction coordinators – organizing volunteers, soliciting in-kind donations of materials and equipment, assembling a talented team of artists and builders, and realizing the project in a series of celebratory events.

We believe that vibrant communities show themselves in places where spontaneous encounters between people happen freely and often. These unintentional interactions, however, happen in highly intentional environments, such as public plazas, parks, main streets, and even bus stops. Well-designed public spaces foster a stronger sense of community, better relations between neighbors, and an increased sense of safety.

As people interact, the quality of life in the neighborhood increases, social problems diminish, and trust, pride, and ownership grow. Gathering spaces must be designed with the entire community in mind, serving both intimate meetings and large gatherings. They are designed for young and old, for personal reflection as well as community celebration. As our region struggles with sprawl and traffic congestion (a direct result of sprawl), gathering places become essential components in making increased densities work better. As *Puget Sound Business Journal* columnist Glenn Pascal wrote, our gathering places should “move from the category of nice-to-have to need-to-have.”

Our method is to involve community members in all phases of a gathering place project, from initial concept, through the construction process, to ongoing stewardship. We have found this in-depth involvement ensures that all people are considered, that local sensibilities and concerns are expressed, and that ongoing stewardship is secured.

We begin by listening to the community's ideas and preferences. Pomegranate Center's

team then develops preliminary design concepts, returning again to the community for comments and ideas. The design is then developed further, until a community-supported project emerges. One of Pomegranate Center's greatest strengths is ensuring that public participation enhances rather than diminishes the quality of the final project.

Over the years we have learned to constantly push the design upward towards the highest possible expression. Out of this process, amazing gathering places arise from community partnership, human ingenuity, and the energy of each individual involved. These gathering places reflect the values and diversity of the community and foster a population that is more engaged and more likely to care for one another.

Over the past years, we have completed gathering places for migrant farm workers and several affordable housing projects in need of social revitalization, designed a central park for a high-density urban village, and helped develop plans for a series of housing projects integrating community spaces. With each new project, we have the opportunity to further refine our participatory model of creating meaningful gathering places and make it available to more communities.

*Milenko Matanovic is the founding director of Pomegranate Center, a non-profit organization where art, public participation, and community betterment converge. He involves communities throughout the project and, whenever possible, collaborates with local artists. Materials from the site itself as well as recycled materials that have fallen out of use are incorporated.*

*For details on the work of the center, e-mail [milenko@pomegranate.org](mailto:milenko@pomegranate.org) or call 425-557-6412.*



## Best available science for wetlands

Under the GMA, local governments are required to use the best available science (BAS) when reviewing and revising their policies and regulations on freshwater wetlands. However, there is no comprehensive interpretation of BAS for wetlands, and most local governments lack the resources to tackle such an undertaking.

The state departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife, with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, are initiating a project to help. A two-volume document on BAS for freshwater wetlands is being produced. Volume one will be a synthesis of current scientific information on freshwater wetlands. Volume two will contain protection and management measures in the form of options and recommendations for local governments. It can be used to craft language for local regulations.

Volume one will be ready early in 2002 and volume two in spring 2002. Scientists and planners will be asked to review drafts before they're published.

Ecology also plans to prepe a new model ordinance based on the documents and conduct training for local governments.

See [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/bas\\_wetlands](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/bas_wetlands) for details, or contact Teri Granger at 360-407-6857 to get on the mailing list.

Cities and counties have a deadline of September 1, 2002, to have taken action to review and, if necessary, revise their plans and regulations to comply with the GMA, including the BAS requirement for critical areas. If the Ecology documents are not available in time to be fully considered prior to this timeframe, they may still be useful for a later local update. For some other sources of BAS, call OCD at 360-725-3060 to get a copy of the agency's list of citations of BAS.

**Ashland Circle at Issaquah Highlands is a central place where neighbors can visit, children can play, and community celebrations take place. Residents say the park is a main reason for a strong sense of community.**

PHOTO / COURTESY OF  
POMEGRANATE CENTER

### Open space planning under the GMA

Local governments planning under the GMA are required to identify open space corridors within and between urban growth areas. Many counties and cities also included a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element in the first comprehensive plans they prepared under the GMA.

When local governments undertake review of their urban growth areas (UGAs) as required by RCW 36.70A.130(3) to determine how their UGAs are accommodating urban growth, it's a good time to look at planning for parks, recreation, and open space to see if it's adequate for communities over next 20 years.

Here are some questions to consider:

- Is planning for your open space system coordinated with those of neighboring jurisdictions, state agencies, and private organizations, such as land trusts?
- Has the necessary financing for the purchase of open space been determined?
- Have you considered how your parks, recreational facilities, natural resource lands, and critical areas fit together in open space corridors or systems?
- Have you considered the needs for various kinds of habitat, especially endangered species, when planning your open space system?
- Have citizens been involved early in the planning and project design process?
- Have you decided what level of service standards or what amount of land area for parks and open space and what level of park development per capita is adequate to serve your residents?
- Have you revised your figures on how much additional land area is needed for each open space type and what recreational facilities your community will need for 20 years based on your level of service standards and new population projections?
- For the rural areas in your county, have you defined rural character and considered what kind of open space reinforces this definition?

Call OCD at 360-725-3000 to request guidebooks on planning for parks, recreation, and open space and rural character.

## Cascade Land Conservancy helps communities carry out growth management plans

By Gene Duvernoy  
President, Cascade Land Conservancy

**L**and trusts are natural allies of government in carrying out the GMA.

In the central Puget Sound region, Cascade Land Conservancy (CLC) works with individual and corporate landowners to promote the voluntary preservation of natural and open space lands. GMA goals that we directly advance include reducing sprawl, protecting private property rights, maintaining natural resource industries, retaining open space and recreation opportunities, protecting the environment, and encouraging historical preservation. Since 1989, CLC has protected more than 8,000 acres in King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties.

Here are just a few examples of the many projects on which CLC has partnered with local governments to achieve the objectives of the GMA:

**Snoqualmie Preservation Initiative** – CLC worked with the City of Snoqualmie, King County, Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Company, and Puget Western Inc. to preserve the 145-acre Falls Crossing property, directly adjacent to Snoqualmie Falls. The acquisition protects the spectacular views of the falls, will protect up to 9,000 acres of working forestland in the Raging River basin, and protects two major linkages in the regional trail system.

**Lund's Gulch** – CLC worked with the City of Lynnwood to acquire key parcels to complete Meadowdale Park, a 150-acre forested urban park in south Snohomish County. The acquisitions buffer the park from surrounding development and protect the park's salmon-bearing stream.

**Robe Canyon** – CLC recently acquired a key property near the trailhead of Robe Canyon Historical Park, along the south fork of the Stillaguamish River. This acquisition protects significant river frontage and mature riparian forest and will provide handicapped access to the 1,000-acre park. The park's trail is constructed along a portion of the historic Monte Cristo railroad.

**South Prairie Creek** – At the request of Pierce County Parks Department, CLC acquired a 20-acre property along South Prairie Creek. The property is adjacent to the proposed Foothills Trail extension, and the Parks Department plans to include the property in the trails system and restore its salmon habitat.

**Schibig Dairy** – With funding from Pierce County's Conservation Futures program, CLC acquired 10 acres of the historic Schibig dairy farm along Clover Creek, once part of Peter Smith's 1853 land claim of 320 acres. The preserved property spans both sides of the creek and is adjacent to an extensive wetland already preserved by Pierce County.

**Hitt's Hill** – Working with the City of Seattle and a dedicated neighborhood group, CLC negotiated an option agreement on one of the last remaining open spaces in the Rainier Valley. The 3.5-acre wooded site was slated for development of more than 20 residences. Funding from the city's parks levy will add critically needed open space to a neighborhood that is lacking in open space and parks.

The GMA establishes an expectation that communities which accept their fair share of growth also will maintain their quality of life with vibrant parks, healthy open spaces, and sound ecosystems. Partnerships between local government and land trusts like CLC are a key vehicle for achieving this objective.



Washington State Office of  
Community Development  
Growth Management Program

906 Columbia Street SW  
PO BOX 48350  
Olympia, WA 98504-8350

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Washington State  
Dept. of Printing